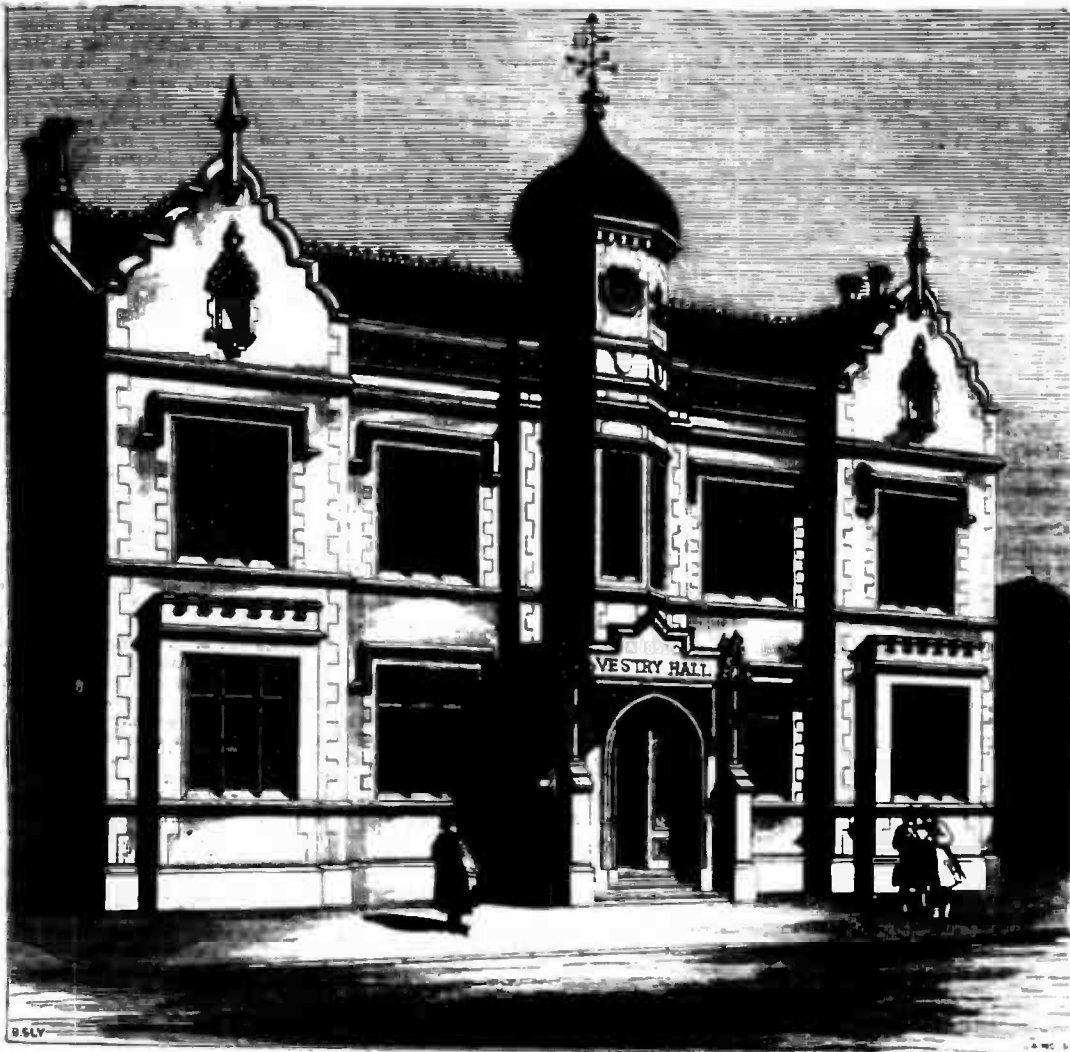


NEW VESTRY HALL, KENSINGTON.—MR. BROADBRIDGE, ARCHITECT.



done, there is one very important consideration. The paintings by Thornhill, in the cupola, are in a very deplorable state. They are painted in oil, and are now about 130 or 140 years old; and, owing in all probability to the settlement of damp in the church, a great part of them has perished. Means have been taken which will render the settlement of damp much less likely in future, so that if there were any chance of restoring these paintings, they would be more permanent than they have been. Such opportunities and chances have been brought before us, especially that by Mr. Parris, whose most able and courageous plan for restoring these works has before been mentioned.

I am happy to say that one of the points which the Dean of St. Paul's has very much at heart is the restoration of these paintings; and I think, with his energy and determination on the subject, it will be done; more especially as I believe I am justified in announcing that Mr. Parris is now as willing as he was thirty years ago to undertake the restoration of the cupola. The Dean and Chapter would no doubt think that if, by the means within their disposal, they should restore the cupola, all the other restorations could be readily followed out by a public subscription, provided proper interest were taken in the work; and I cannot but think, with the energy now displayed on the subject, it only wants a commencement.

FRANCIS C. PENROSE.

NEW VESTRY HALL, KENSINGTON.

THE parishioners of Kensington have recently built a new vestry-hall, the inconvenience of the room adjoining the parish church having been long felt. Above we give a view of it. Mr. Broadbridge was the architect, and Mr. Thomas Corby the builder. It is constructed of red bricks, with stone dressings, and stands in the High-street, on the west side of the National Schools.

BELFAST: ITS BUILDINGS AND SANITARY ARRANGEMENTS.

THE bricks manufactured in Belfast and the neighbourhood are of a light red colour, soft and friable: they are always slop-moulded, and no breeze or other combustible matter is incorporated with the clay, so that the bricks are merely baked, and not ignited. They are rather thicker than the ordinary English brick,—three courses, with half-inch beds, rising twelve inches. They are fired in clamps with coal as fuel, and, probably from the manner of stacking them when burned, the ends are of a paler colour than the sides. This gives a chequered appearance to the fronts of houses, which, when not plastered over, are built in Flemish bond. For ordinary walling they lay 3 feet, or five courses of stretchers and one course of headers, though it is possible that many of the headers are only bats and half bricks. The price is about 20s. per 1,000.

Very little scaffolding is used in building

here, the men working from within, and the joints of the floors supplying the place of scaffolds. Chimney stacks, of great height, are always built from within.

In consequence of the County Down Railway having run a branch line in to the Free-stone quarries at Newtownards, *Scrab stone* (as it is called, from the mountain in which it is quarried) is coming very much into use. It is a sand stone, soft and laminated, varying in colour from a dull reddish brown through every tint of drab and gray: it is not able to withstand the atmospheric influence, especially in so damp a climate, and is very frequently painted over—a barbarity for which they deserve a touch of criticism. The price is about 1s. per foot. Fence walls, and other rubble work, are constructed of basalt, which abounds in the surrounding hills. The union-house and fever hospital are, however, built of basalt, with brick and freestone dressings, in a kind of pseudo-Gothic style, which seems universally allotted to these edifices throughout Ireland.

Excellent limestone is got from Cave-hill, where it crops out below the basaltic strata: it is a kind of indurated chalk, very hard, and with a conchoidal fracture. It would probably do very well for lithographic printing, were any one to take the trouble to select clean blocks and saw them into slabs. A railway carries it down from the hill to the shore, whence it is largely exported. The price of lime in Belfast is 1s. per bushel. Pit sand is dug out in